



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
PHID-110	Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Social Sciences	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Compulsory	Psychology	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Christos Panagides	1 st
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Distance Learning	None	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Provide a brief introduction to informal reasoning.
- Examine the basic principles of evaluating arguments -- both deductive and inductive.
- Provide a definition of “philosophy”.
- Present some of the most important theories in the fields of: metaphysics, social and political philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind and philosophy of science.
- Demonstrate some of the practical uses of these theories.
- Introduce some of the most important moral theories in the western (analytic) philosophical tradition, e.g., Cultural Relativism and Kantian Ethics.
- Demonstrate how arguments are employed in the field of ethics.
- Present some of the practical uses of moral theories/moral reasoning.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Identify arguments.
- Appraise arguments in general – both deductive and inductive.
- Analyze the basic arguments in the following areas of philosophy: (a) Natural Theology, (b) Social and Political Philosophy, (c) Epistemology, (d) Philosophy of Science and (e) Philosophy of Mind.
- Critically assess the relevant theories and arguments in these fields.
- Use these theories in order to suggest possible solutions to practical problems.

- Recognize and evaluate arguments in the field of moral philosophy.
- Identify some of the main theories in ethics and analyze their main tenets.
- Critically evaluate these theories.
- Use these theories in order to suggest possible solutions to some puzzling cases in the field of practical/applied ethics.
- Converse intelligently about ethical issues via the construction of arguments.

Course Content:

1. A very brief Introduction to Philosophy and Informal Reasoning.
2. Natural Theology: Arguments for God’s Existence; The Problem of Evil; Free Will vs Determinism.
3. Themes from Social and Political Philosophy: Egalitarianism; Reverse Discrimination; Theories of Punishment; Civil Disobedience.
4. Epistemology: Theories of Perception.
5. Philosophy of Science: Scientific Explanation; Falsificationism.
6. Philosophy of Mind: Dualism vs Physicalism.
7. A brief Introduction to Moral Philosophy: Moral Reasoning.
8. Cultural Relativism and Moral Subjectivism.
9. Ethical and Psychological Egoism.
10. The Social Contract Theory.
11. Utilitarianism -- euthanasia, abortion, animal rights; Scrutinizing Utilitarianism.
12. Kantian Ethics: The Issue of Absolute Moral Rules

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Pre-recorded Lectures; Live (online) lectures; Online (live) discussions; Group work on the basis of videos on weekly/bi-weekly themes; Forum exercises and discussions; Quizzes.

Assessment Methods:

Tests, Quizzes/Self-Assessment Exercises, Final Exam, Short Term Paper/Project

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Philosophy - The Basics	Warburton, N.	Routledge	2013	-

The Elements of Moral Philosophy	Rachels, J. & Rachels, S.	McGraw-Hill	2014	-
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Recommended Textbooks / Reading:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Practical Ethics	Singer, P.	Cambridge University Press	2011	-
The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy	Audi, R.	Cambridge University Press.	2015	-